## COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

# Working for You

## COUNTY GOVERNMENT

$T$he County of San Diego is the regional government authority responsible for the health, protection and welfare of its residents. County government also provides municipal, or city-type services, for the 436,000 residents who live in unincorporated areas.

The County derives its authority from California's state constitution. Included is the power to act to preserve the public health, safety and welfare, and to assess, levy and collect taxes. San Diego is one of only 13 counties statewide to have adopted a charter. Approved by the voters initially in 1932 and amended 31 times since, the charter provides the framework for how we run County government.

Among a host of services, the County is responsible for…

- administering elections
- fighting crime
- keeping the air we breathe clean
- inspecting restaurant kitchens
- managing eight regional airports
- helping families obtain the resources they need to be self-sufficient
- caring for lost pets and finding homes for those who need one
- maintaining & building parks
- running libraries
- preparing for disasters
- managing hazardous spills
- maintaining public health
- keeping children safe and healthy
- offering mental health and substance abuse services
- protecting seniors from abuse and neglect
- preserving the environment
- improving the quality of coastal and inland waters

$O$n February 18, 1850, San Diego County became the first of California's original 27 counties, shortly after the state was admitted to the Union. To this day, the San Diego County continues its tradition of being first. From streamlining government to forming landmark policies, the County has created a cutting edge government that is now a role model for other counties and cities across the nation.

Originally, a "Court of Sessions" handled administrative duties of the County until January 3, 1853, when the very first Board of Supervisors meeting was held. Today, a five-member Board of Supervisors continues to govern San Diego County.

At the time of its creation, San Diego County had a population of 798 and covered nearly 40,000 square miles. The original County boundaries included San Diego, along with portions of what are now Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino and Inyo counties.

Today, San Diego County is home to approximately 2.9 million people and covers 4,255 square miles – 65 miles from north to south and 86 miles from east to west.

Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo discovered the regions that eventually became San Diego on September 20, 1542. He named the area San Miguel, but Spaniard Don Sebastian Vizcaino renamed it 60 years later. He chose the name San Diego, in honor of his flagship and his favorite saint, San Diego de Alcala.

## ABOUT SAN DIEGO COUNTY

— San Diego County has the third highest population of California's 58 counties. Its population has more than doubled in the past 25 years.

— In terms of size, San Diego County is slightly smaller than the state of Connecticut and four times as large as the Rhode Island.

— The ethnic make-up of San Diego County is changing. Hispanics will account for one-third of San Diego's population by 2020.

— San Diego's annual unemployment rate reached a historical low 3.0 percent in 2000. Despite a national recession in 2002, San Diego added nearly 20,000 jobs and the average unemployment rate remained low at 4.0 percent.

— San Diego County is a top agriculture producer in the nation and has the second largest number of farms. The County leads the nation in production of several crops, including avocadoes, mushrooms, and nursery products.

— San Diego County has the third largest concentration of biotech companies of all U.S. metropolitan areas, and is beginning to be seen as an area for emerging technologies.

— If San Diego County was a nation, its economy would rank 35th in the world, about the size of Isreal or Indonesia.

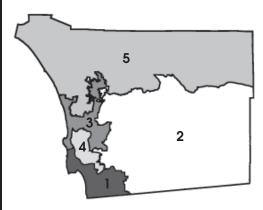— The border between San Diego and Mexico is the busiest in the world.

(Sources: SANDAG, SD Regional Chamber of Commerce, San Diego Farm Bureau.)

$S$an Diego County is governed by a five-member Board of Supervisors. Members are elected by the district on a non-partisan basis and serve four-year terms. Supervisors are nominated and elected from the district in which they live. District boundaries are based primarily on population, with each Supervisor representing about one-fifth of the County's 2.9 million residents.

The Board of Supervisors strongly believes that County government should focus on vital "core" public services. Other programs are evaluated and may be contracted out to the private sector, if it's the best use of taxpayer dollars. The County's goal: a government that earns the respect and support of its residents.

## Supervisorial Districts

# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Greg Cox
First District
(619) 531-5511

Dianne Jacob
Second District
(619) 531-5522

Pam Slater
Third District
(619) 531-5533

Ron Roberts
Fourth District
(619) 531-5544

Bill Horn
Fifth District
(619) 531-5555

## CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

$A$s Chief Administrative Officer, Walt Ekard works with the Board of Supervisors, the public and County employees to create a County government that is customer-focused and responsive to citizen's needs.

It's the CAO's duty to carry out the policies set by the Board of Supervisors, and to oversee the operation of more than 30 departments that provide a myriad of services to County residents. Under the Board's direction, Ekard will continue the effort underway to use private business management practices, stressing customer service, fiscal accountability and teamwork. Among Ekard's top priorities are strengthening communication and involving employees of all levels in projects to accomplish County goals.

Five general managers (Deputy Chief Administrative Officers) report to the CAO and oversee clusters of County departments (see chart on next page).

CITIZENS OF
SAN DIEGO COUNTY

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

CHIEF
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

ASSISTANT CHIEF
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

PUBLIC SAFETY GROUP

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
AGENCY

LAND USE & ENVIRONMENT
GROUP

FINANCE & GENERAL
GOVERNMENT GROUP
(Includes Direct Reports to CAO)

$T$he Public Safety Group works hard every day to make San Diego County a safer place to live. Departments in the Public Safety Group tackle critical community issues, from elder abuse to juvenile delinquency, and provide innovative regional solutions to law enforcement challenges.

The **Sheriff** is the chief law enforcement officer of the County. The Sheriff's Department works with other County agencies to prevent crime, protect lives and property, and preserve the peace. The department provides law enforcement to the County unincorporated areas and nine contract cities. The Sheriff is also responsible for courtroom security, ensuring court appearances, operating detention facilities, and serving warrants.

The **District Attorney's** office investigates crime, prosecutes criminal defendants and takes action to deter crime from happening in our neighborhoods. The District Attorney assists victims of crime, protects families through innovative programs to prevent crime, and protects taxpayers by investigating and prosecuting public assistance fraud.

**Child Support Services** helps with the collection of child support for children in need. This is done by establishing and enforcing child support orders that foster a sense of parental responsibility.

The County's **Public Defender** provides criminal defense services to those defendants who cannot afford to hire counsel. In situations when the Public Defender cannot represent a person because of legal conflict of interest, the **Alternate Public Defender** can provide legal representation.

The **Probation Department** helps make San Diego neighborhoods safer by supervising probationers through the enforcement of court orders and providing prevention programs to strengthen families, suppress gang activity, and address alcohol and drug abuse that contributes to criminal activity. The department also runs Juvenile Hall and other minimum-security facilities for juveniles.

The **Medical Examiner** investigates deaths, performs autopsies, prepares and issues death certificates, and notifies and counsels next-of-kin.

The **Office of Emergency Services** works in partnership with public safety agencies and other organizations throughout the County to plan for major emergencies. It also provides information to the community on how to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.

The **Citizens Law Enforcement Review Board** receives and investigates complaints of misconduct by peace officers and custodial officers employed by the County Sheriff's and Probation Department.

$P$*eople*. In a word, that's what the **Health and Human Services Agency** is all about. The Agency is the County's largest division, with a $1.6 billion annual budget and more than 6,000 employees. But the Agency's work – protecting and promoting the health and well being of San Diego County's 2.8 million residents – is much more than the mere sum of its statistics.

The Agency's programs touch every geographic area in the county, and every socioeconomic and ethnic group. Programs also cover every age group from newborns to senior citizens. While these programs are as varied as the people they serve, they have one thing in common – effective, efficient, integrated service delivery to county residents.

Among the services the Agency provides are health-focused programs for alcohol and drug dependencies and child and adult mental health counseling. Also offered are many medical programs ranging from disease prevention to management of a regional trauma care system. The Agency sponsors immunization programs, nutrition education, communicable disease testing and control and outreach to enroll children and families in health care programs.

The Health and Human Services Agency provides people and families with temporary financial assistance, and works with them to combine health care, employment services, in-home support, and other social services to become self-sufficient. The Agency administers the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility for Kids (CalWORKs) program, as well as childcare, foster care and adoption placement, child protective services, and help for domestic violence victims. An advocate for the region's veterans, the Agency provides assistance with education benefits, medical needs, and disability benefits.

In addition, the Agency provides services to the elderly and disabled to help them maintain their independence while preventing unnecessary institutionalization, reducing isolation and loneliness, and improving nutrition and health. The Agency acts as conservator for persons who require management of their financial needs. Additional programs include adult day care and provision of meals, in-home support, adult protective services, case management, and opportunities for seniors to volunteer in the community.

# LAND USE & ENVIRONMENT

$T$he Land Use and Environment Group unifies the County's efforts to protect the environment and the quality of life for its residents.

From filling potholes to constructing bridges, **Public Works** makes sure that County residents can get where they need to go within the unincorporated areas. Besides constructing and maintaining roads, the department manages the region's sanitation and flood control district, oversees recycling programs and runs several general aviation airports such as McClellan-Palomar and Gillespie Field.

**Parks and Recreation** strives to preserve natural and cultural resources throughout the County. The department operates 33,000 acres of park land with 20 regional camping and picnic parks, 10 open space preserves, three historic adobes, a Victorian village, and three community centers.

**Trade and Business Development** works hard to attract, retain and expand businesses in the unincorporated areas of San Diego County. It offers many different competitive incentive programs that prove the County means business.

**Environmental Health** seeks to protect the environment and enhance public health by preventing disease, promoting environmental responsibility and, when necessary, enforcing environmental and public health laws. Among its responsibilities are: regulating retail food establishments, monitoring water quality, and preventing disease carried by rodents and mosquitoes.

**Planning and Land Use** is the lead agency within the unincorporated areas of San Diego County for land use planning and development, as well as the Multiple Species Conservation Plan in coordination with Parks and Recreation. The department also enforces building codes, issues building permits, and performs building inspections.

**Agriculture, Weights and Measures** works to enhance and promote the preservation of agriculture and the environment, while protecting the health and safety of County residents. The department also ensures that people receive full measure for what they buy – and that what they purchase is clean, safe, and usable.

The **Air Pollution Control District** strives to protect the public from the harmful effects of air pollution and maintains air quality standards. The district fosters community involvement through programs such as the Smoking Vehicle Hotline.

The **Farm and Home Advisor** develops education and research programs in partnership with the University of California and the United States Department of Agriculture. The office seeks solutions in youth development, nutrition and consumer education, environmental concerns, urban horticulture and agriculture.

$W$hile the departments making up the Community Services Group may be vastly different, each shares the common goal of providing fast, focused and friendly services to the public and County government.

**Animal Control** saves the lives of thousands of lost and abandoned pets each year, and protects the public from dangerous animals. Staff work diligently to reunite lost pets with their owners and give stray animals a second chance through the department's adoption program. Animal Control operates three shelters, promotes responsible pet ownership through programs such as licensing, spaying/neutering, and rabies control.

The **County Library** actively promotes reading and life-long learning through its 32 branches and two bookmobiles. County branch libraries aren't just about books, they include instruction and access to the Internet and other online services, homework resources for children, and diverse programs to enlighten and inform customers of all ages.

The County's **Registrar of Voters** conducts all elections in San Diego County and provides eligible citizens the opportunity to vote. Over the years, the department has taken customer service to new levels by offering weekend voting, drive-through voter registration, and comprehensive election results via its Web site and is currently working on a new touch-screen voting system for 2004.

**Housing and Community Development** helps build better neighborhoods in San Diego County. It works with qualified low- to moderate-income families to find affordable housing, helps first-time home-buyers and offers rental assistance. The department also works to create overall community improvements and reduce the level of substandard housing.

**General Services** provides the services County employees need to do their jobs. The department designs, operates and maintains 700 buildings, totaling 7 million square feet; maintains hundreds of vehicles used by the County to provide public services; and provides printing, records management and mail services.

**Purchasing and Contracting** is responsible for the purchasing the goods, materials and services for the County of San Diego. The department also provides centralized acquisition of commonly used items, organizes the disposal of surplus items, and runs the County's auction of unused equipment.

# FINANCE & GENERAL GOVERNMENT

$F$rom maintaining official records to keeping technological infrastructure current, departments in the Finance and General Government category are vital to the efficiency of County government.

The **Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk** issues marriage licenses; performs weddings; files certificates of fictitious business name; registers notaries public and process servers; maintains marriage, birth, and death certificates; assesses real and personal property; and tracks changes in ownership, exemption status, and assessor maps.

The **Treasurer/Tax Collector** collects all local property taxes and provides investment, banking, and other financial services to public agencies within the County of San Diego.

The **Auditor and Controller** keeps the County's books and administers the system that determines how local property taxes are allocated to all governmental agencies in the region; performs accounts receivable and collections services; and provides financial decision-making support to the Board and the CAO.

**Clerk of the Board** maintains the official records of the County government, including Board of Supervisors' weekly meeting agendas and assessment appeals records.

**Media and Public Relations** keeps County residents informed about the critical issues facing our community, and provides information about the myriad of County services and programs. The County's government access station, CTN, cablecasts live coverage of the Board of Supervisors, and stories about County services, local history, art, recreation, and much more.

**Human Resources** assists in the recruitment and selection of new employees. The department also manages benefits, labor relations, employee safety, suggestions/service awards and other programs.

The **County Technology Office** ensures that the County's information technology and telecommunications needs are being met by overseeing the County's IT contract and providing strategic support to departments.

**County Counsel** provides legal services and defends the County, its officers, boards, commissions, employees and certain school and special districts in any civil action.

The **Civil Service Commission** is responsible for hearing appeals, in order to protect the merit basis of the personnel system.

# CITIZEN PARTICIPATION



There are many opportunities for citizen input and involvement in County government. For more information, please visit the Clerk of the Board's Web site at **www.sdcounty.ca.gov/cob** or call (619) 531-5600.

**Board Meetings:** The Board of Supervisors meets twice a week at the County Administration Center. General business, budget, and policy issues relating to the operation of County government are addressed at Tuesday meetings. Wednesday meetings are set aside for planning matters and public hearings. Both meetings begin at 9 a.m. All meetings are open to the public, with the exception of closed sessions, at which the Board meets to discuss personnel matters and litigation. Board meeting schedules, agenda information, and statements of proceedings are all available on the Clerk of the Board's Web site.

**Citizen Boards, Commissions and Advisory Committees:** Another way to participate in your County government is to join one of about 100 County citizen committees, boards and commissions. These advisory bodies provide the County with ideas, guidance, and input on County operations, programs and services.

**Volunteer Programs:** Volunteer opportunities abound in many County programs. Each year, volunteers donate thousands of hours supporting County parks, libraries, and programs for seniors and children.

# COUNTY STATISTICS

## POPULATION

|  | 2001 | 2002 | % change |
|---|---|---|---|
| California | 34,385,000 | 35,037,000 | 1.9 |
| San Diego Co. | 2,859,900 | 2,918,300 | 2.0 |
| % of state population in San Diego County | 8.3 | 8.3 | |

Sources: California Department of Finance, U.S. Census

## RACE / ETHNICITY (2000)

|  | San Diego Co. | California |
|---|---|---|
| White | 55.0% | 46.7% |
| Hispanic | 26.7% | 32.4% |
| Black | 5.5% | 6.4% |
| Asian | 8.7% | 10.8% |
| Other | 4.1% | 3.7% |

Source: U.S. Census

## AGE & SEX COMPOSITION (2000)

| | |
|---|---|
| Under 18 | 25.7% |
| 18 to 24 | 11.3% |
| 25 to 44 | 32.0% |
| 45-64 | 19.8% |
| 65 & Older | 11.2% |
| Median Age | 33.2 |
| Males | 50.3% |
| Females | 49.7% |

Source: U.S. Census

## POPULATION OF THE CITIES OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY

|                | 2000 Census | Jan. 1, 2002 |
|----------------|-------------|--------------|
| Carlsbad       | 78,247      | 88,000       |
| Chula Vista    | 173,556     | 190,900      |
| Coronado       | 24,100      | 25,950       |
| Del Mar        | 4,389       | 4,500        |
| El Cajon       | 94,869      | 96,500       |
| Encinitas      | 58,014      | 60,000       |
| Escondido      | 133,559     | 137,000      |
| Imperial Beach | 26,992      | 27,500       |
| La Mesa        | 54,749      | 55,600       |
| Lemon Grove    | 24,918      | 25,350       |
| National City  | 54,260      | 58,100       |
| Oceanside      | 161,029     | 167,200      |
| Poway          | 48,044      | 49,650       |
| San Diego      | 1,223,400   | 1,255,700    |
| San Marcos     | 54,977      | 60,800       |
| Santee         | 52,975      | 53,700       |
| Solana Beach   | 12,979      | 13,300       |
| Vista          | 89,857      | 92,100       |
| Unincorporated | 442,868     | 456,400      |
| Total County   | 2,813,833   | 2,918,300    |

Source: California Department of Finance

## GROWTH FORECASTS

| Year | Population |
|------|------------|
| 2010 | 3,235,675  |
| 2020 | 3,598,871  |
| 2030 | 3,889,604  |

Source: SANDAG Series 8 Regional Growth Forecasts

# COUNTY STATISTICS

## LAND & WATER AREAS

| Water Area | Acres | 16,360 |
|---|---|---|
| | Square Miles | 25.6 |
| Land Area | Acres | 2,723,200 |
| | Square Miles | 4,255 |

Source: County of San Diego

## VOTER REGISTRATION STATISTICS

| | Nov. 2000 | Nov. 2002 |
|---|---|---|
| Eligible to Vote | 1,975,413 | not available |
| Registered to Vote | 1,411,672 | 1,411,808 |
| Democrat | 510,319 | 500,376 |
| Republican | 578,391 | 580,102 |
| American Indep. | 34,040 | 32,971 |
| Natural Law | 13,495 | 10,404 |
| Reform | 13,414 | 10,418 |
| Libertarian | 11,564 | 11,270 |
| Green | 8,812 | 11,077 |
| Miscellaneous | 6,901 | 6,168 |
| Decline to state | 234,736 | 249,022 |

Source: County of San Diego

## VOTER PARTICIPATION STATISTICS

(2000 Presidential Election)

| | |
|---|---|
| Eligible to Vote | 1,975,413 |
| Registered to Vote | 1,411,672 |
| Precincts | 1,508 |
| Votes Cast at Polls | 691,903 |
| Declared Mail Ballot Voters | 33,540 |
| Applied Mail Ballot Voters | 293,919 |
| Total Voted | 978,569 |
| Percent of Voter Turnout | 69.32% |

Source: County of San Diego

# COUNTY STATISTICS

## ELECTED OFFICIALS

| | Board of Supervisors |
|---|---|
| District 1 | Greg Cox |
| District 2 | Dianne Jacob |
| District 3 | Pam Slater |
| District 4 | Ron Roberts |
| District 5 | Bill Horn |

| | |
|---|---|
| Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk | Gregory J. Smith |
| District Attorney | Bonnie Dumanis |
| Sheriff | Bill Kolender |
| Treasurer/Tax Collector | Dan McAllister |

## LOCATION OF MAJOR COUNTY FACILITIES

County Administration Center
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, California 92101

County Operations Center
5555 Overland Avenue
San Diego, California 92123

County Courthouse
220 W. Broadway
San Diego, California 92101

Hall of Justice
330 W. Broadway
San Diego, California 92101

Health Services Complex
3851 Rosecrans Street
San Diego, California 92110

East County Regional Center
250 E. Main Street
El Cajon, California 92020

North County Regional Center
325 S. Melrose Drive
Vista, California 92083

South Bay Regional Center
500 Third Avenue
Chula Vista, California 91910

# HOW TO REACH US

For a comprehensive list of services, visit the "Departments and Services A-Z" section of the County's Web site at www.sdcounty.ca.gov

(Note: 800, 866, 877 and 888 numbers are toll-free)

| | |
|---|---|
| Adopt-A-Road | (858) 874-4040 |
| Adoptions | (877) I ADOPT U |
| Aging & Independence Services | (800) 510-2020 |
| Airports (County) | (619) 956-4800 |
| Air Quality Forecast | (858) 650-4777 |
| Alcohol and Drug Treatment | (619) 692-5717 |
| Animal Control/Animal Shelters | |
|   Central & South County | (619) 236-4250 |
|   North County Coastal | (760) 438-2312 |
|   North County Inland | (760) 746-7307 |
| Animal Control 24-hour Emergency Only | |
|   Central & South County | (619) 236-2341 |
|   North County | (760) 438-1460 |
| Assessment Appeals | (619) 531-5777 |
| Auction Info/Probated Estates | (858) 694-3500 |
| Baby Shots Line | (619) 692-6600 |
| Beach & Bay Advisories | (619) 338-2073 |
| Bee Hotline | (800) 200-2337 |
| Birth, Death & Marriage Certificates | (619) 237-0502 |
| Board of Supervisors Agenda Update | (619) 531-6172 |
| Board of Supervisors Consent Calendar | (619) 685-2666 |
| Board of Supervisors General Office | (619) 531-5700 |
| Building Information | (888) 336-7553 |
| Building Permits (Kearny Mesa) | (858) 565-5920 |
|   El Cajon | (619) 441-4030 |
|   San Marcos | (760) 471-0730 |
| Child Abuse Reporting | (800) 344-6000 |
| Child Support Services | (619) 236-7600 |
|   (tollfree) | (866) 230-CARE |
| Children's Mental Health Info & Referral | (888) 843-5800 |
| Citizens Law Enforcement Review Board | (619) 515-6029 |
| Clerk of the Board | (619) 531-5600 |
| Code Enforcement, El Cajon | (619) 441-4264 |
| Code Enforcement, San Marcos | (760) 940-2893 |
| Consumer Fraud/Consumer Complaints | (619) 531-3507 |
| CTN Info Line | (619) 595-4600 |
| District Attorney General Info | (619) 531-4040 |
| Dog Vaccinations, Rabies | (619) 236-4646 |

(Continued)

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# HOW TO REACH US

| | |
|---|---|
| Dog Licensing/Rabies Clinics | (619) 236-1188 |
| Earthquake/Disaster Preparedness | (858) 565-3490 |
| Environmental Health Information | (800) 253-9933 |
| Food & Housing Complaints | (619) 338-2283 |
| Foster Parenting | (877) 792-KIDS |
| Grafitti Hotline | (877) 684-8000 |
| Hazardous Materials Complaints | (619) 338-2284 |
| Immunization Program | (619) 692-8661 |
| Job Hotline | (619) 531-5764 |
| (toll free) | (866) 880-9374 |
| Job Hotline (TDD) | (619) 531-5362 |
| Leaking Gas Nozzles (to report) | (800) 952-5588 |
| Library/Information Line | (858) 694-2414 |
| Marriage Licenses | (619) 531-6248 |
| Mental Health Access & Crisis Hotline | (800) 479-3339 |
| Noise Complaints | (858) 694-3741 |
| Odor Complaints | (858) 650-4550 |
| Parks Information | (858) 694-3049 |
| Parks Reservation | (877) 565-3600 |
| PetLink (automated lost and found info) | (619) 294-2063 |
| Pesticide Complaints | (858) 694-8980 |
| Planning & Land Use Info | (800) 411-0017 |
| Pothole Hotline | (877) 684-8000 |
| Property Taxes Information Line | (619) 236-2424 |
| Public Assistance Information | (858) 514-6885 |
| Public Works Information | (858) 694-2212 |
| Real Property Records | (619) 238-8158 |
| Recycling/Household Hazardous Waste | (877) R-1-EARTH |
| Scales/Scanners/Gas Pump Accuracy Complaints | (858) 694-2778 |
| Sheriff Non-Emergency & General Info | (858) 565-5200 |
| Smoking Vehicle Hotline | (800) 28-SMOKE |
| Special Districts | (858) 694-2198 |
| Starting a Business | (858) 495-5494 |
| Think Blue Stormwater Hotline | (888) 844-6525 |
| Traffic Advisory Committee | (858) 874-4029 |
| Transit Information | (800) COMMUTE |
| Vector Control | (858) 694-2888 |
| Veterans Services | (619) 531-4545 |
| Victim Witness Program | (619) 531-4041 |
| Voter Registration/Election Information | (858) 565-5800 |
| Welfare Fraud Hotline | (800) 421-2252 |
| Wildlife Complaints | (800) 486-0010 |
| Zoning Information | (888) 267-8770 |

To learn more about
San Diego County government,
visit our website at
**www.sdcounty.ca.gov**

or tune into
County Television Network

**ctn**

**www.ctn.org**

Board of Supervisors Meetings Broadcast Live
Tuesdays and Wednesdays
at 9 a.m.

Revised 3-03